REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1-11 will have been amended.

In view of the herein contained amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and objections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action. Such action is now believed to be appropriate and proper and is thus respectfully requested, in due course.

Initially, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for indicating the acceptance of the drawings filed with the present application on May 18, 2005. Applicants would also like to thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119. Since the present application is a national stage of PCT/JP2003/014806, Applicants assume that the certified copy of the foreign priority document has been forwarded to the United States Patent and Trademark Office by the International Bureau. Applicants would also like to thank the Examiner for acknowledging consideration of the documents listed on the Form PTO-1449s submitted with the Information Disclosure Statements filed on August 18, 2005 and May 6, 2008.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner objected to the specification. In particular, the Examiner indicated that the title specified on the Bibliographic Data sheet contains misspelled words. By the present response, Applicants have submitted a new title of the invention that contains no misspelled words. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. The Examiner further

rejected claims 3-7and 10-11 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, asserting that these claims are indefinite as they recite a use without any active, positive steps delimiting how this use is actually practiced.

By the present response, Applicants have amended the claims to eliminate the term "data groups," which is asserted to be unclear by the Examiner, and any terminology that could possibly be considered to be lacking in proper or sufficient antecedent basis. Further, Applicants have amended claims 3-7 and 10-11 by clearly reciting steps in process claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejection is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 3-7 and 10-11 under 35 U.S.C. §101, because the claimed recitation of a use, without setting forth any steps involved in the process, results in an improper definition of a process.

As noted above, by the present response, Applicants have amended rejected claims 3-7 and 10-11 so as to recite steps and to define a proper process according to the present invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding 35 U.S.C. §101 rejection is respectfully requested.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Grecia (US Patent Application Publication 2003/0165328).

Applicants respectfully traverse the above noted rejection and submit that it is inappropriate with respect to the combinations of features recited in each of Applicants' claims. In particular, Applicants respectfully submit that the disclosure of the reference relied upon is inadequate and insufficient to either anticipate or even to render obvious the features of Applicants' invention as defined by claims 1 to 11 pending herein.

Applicants' invention is directed to a video data file integrating apparatus, a video data file integrating method, an integrated video data file reproducing apparatus and an integrated video data file reproducing method, as recited in each of independent claims 1, 2, 3, 8 and 10. Utilizing the video data file integrating apparatus recited in claim 1 as a non-limiting example of features and aspects of the invention disclosed in the present application, the present application relates to a video data file integrating apparatus for integrating original un-integrated video data files and original un-integrated management information files associated therewith having a data format of an original un-integrated directory file structure recorded in a first recording medium, into a data format of a different directory file structure to be recorded in a second recording medium. The apparatus includes a conversion processor that converts the original un-integrated management information files and the original un-integrated video data files into an integrated management information file and an integrated video data file, respectively. The conversion processor further converts the original un-integrated directory file structure corresponding to the first recording medium into reproduction control information, which is used in reproducing the integrated video data file, in a data format of the integrated management information file so as to be recorded in the second medium in the integrated management information file.

As a non-limiting example, the "reproduction control information" is defined in the specification as information formed by replacing the directory file arrangement of the video data before consolidation with other information, which refers to the programs (program 1, 2, 3) and playlists 411 to 413 (playlists 1 to 3). Thus, after the video data files are integrated, the user still can recognize, from the program (program 1, 2, 3) information, under which directory the video data files were present in the card before the video data files are integrated. The user can further recognize, from the playlist (playlists 1 to 3) information, regarding in which card the

video data and the program were present before the integration. (See, e.g., paragraph bridging pages 16 and 17.

Thus, by utilizing the reproduction control information, the reproduction device of the present invention selectively reproduces original un-integrated video data files, which were once stored in a directory structure of a specified first recording medium, on the second recording medium. This allows a user to view only a desired part of the original un-integrated video data files, on the second recording medium, even after these original un-integrated video data files are converted into the data format of the second recording medium and are integrated into a single data file. (See, for example, page 7, lines 23-25.)

In Grecia, the data of the video CD in a directory file structure is converted by CDRWIN into bin and cue files in a directory file structure stored on the computer's hardware. The bin and cue files are created in order to make a copy of the original video CD from the bin and cue files.

The Examiner asserted that the integrated management information file and the integrated video data file recorded in the second recording medium respectively correspond to the cue file and bin file of Grecia. However, as disclosed in paragraph [0029] of Grecia, the purpose of the cue sheet is to tell an ISO 9660 mastering program such as CDRWIN, instructions for formatting, modes, and structuring of a disc to be created. In other words, the cue file is not used to reproduce the integrated video data file on the second recording medium. Thus, unlike the features of the present invention as recited in each of the independent claims, Grecia does not disclose that the original un-integrated directory file structure in a first medium is converted into reproduction control information, which is used in reproducing the integrated video data file.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Grecia does not disclose or suggest the combination of features as recited in each of the Applicant's independent claims, and the Examiner's rejection of the independent claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is thus improper.

The dependent claims in the present application are respectfully submitted to be patentable over the reference relied upon based upon their dependence from a shown to be allowable base claim, as well as based upon their own additional recitations.

Accordingly, in view of the herein contained amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that they have now overcome the outstanding rejections and objections in the present application and respectfully request an indication to such effect, in due course.
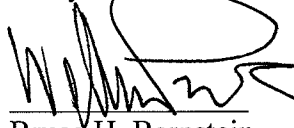
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present application into condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so. Applicants have amended the claims to clarify the features of the invention and to emphasize distinctions between the present invention and the disclosure of the reference relied upon by the Examiner.

Applicant has discussed the disclosure of the reference cited by the Examiner against the claims of the present application and with respect to such disclosure, has noted the significant and substantial deficiencies thereof. Applicants have additionally discussed the explicit recitations of Applicants' claims and with respect to such recitations have noted the shortcomings of the disclosures of the reference applied thereagainst. Accordingly, Applicants have provided clear bases for the patentability of all the claims in the present application and respectfully request an indication to such effect, in due course.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this Response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
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